

Why join the Rowsley and District Youth Football League?

History and Principles

The Rowsley and District Youth League has been offering organised football in North Derbyshire for 70 years. The league has developed from an U18s league in 1947 to one of the leading providers of charter standard youth football for U7s through to U18s.

Our Aims:

- To allow young people to develop an enjoyment and passion for the game.
- To develop young people as footballers through our administration and provision of facilities.
- To encourage young people to become future leaders and role models within their clubs and communities.
- To encourage a healthy lifestyle and exercise for young people in the North Derbyshire area.
- And most importantly, for coaches, managers, spectators and players to have fun!

Our Values:

1. **Development and Care** – as well as ensuring that players are given the opportunity and facilities to develop into fine footballers and have fun, we also ensure that our challenging and nurturing leagues encourage fairness, sportsmanship and, more importantly, fun.
2. **Honesty and Integrity** – the league has always an open and transparent communication policy to ensure we are here to involve and support our clubs, teams, parents, referees and youngsters in the planning and development of their league.
3. **Respect** – as a league we adhere to and enforce the FA Respect campaign and use this to guide our managers, coaches and players.
4. **Fairness** – all decisions made by the management committee are impartial as the senior committee members have no affiliation to our member clubs and we always put the needs of the children first.
5. **Evaluation and Progress** – as a league, we evaluate, refine and improve our practice, acting upon the feedback and suggestions of our member clubs and teams.

Modern Day

The RDYFL is one of the only charter standard youth football leagues offering structured and coordinated football on both Saturdays and Sundays. We have been in growth year upon year and are looking to expand and extend our stellar reputation further. The management committee has undergone a dramatic transformation in the last two years and we are always eager to recruit new volunteers to improve the service we provide to our clubs.

What do we offer?

Mini-Soccer – whilst the league is non-competitive the games certainly aren't! We offer nurturing, centralised, developmental football for U7s to U10s on Saturday mornings

U11s¹ – U18s – 9-a-side and 11-a-side competitive football played home and away, offered on both Saturday and Sunday

Futsal – operating in partnership with RDYFL, the independent Chesterfield Futsal League offers futsal to all age groups on Friday evenings

Mini-Soccer

The Mini-Soccer centres have grown considerably during the last seventeen years. Founded in 1999, the Mini-Soccer league had initially eight teams and one venue. Now, in 2016, the three centres (with a proposal under discussion for a fourth) offer football to over 110 teams and a thousand youngsters² every week on a Saturday morning.

¹ U11s is a non-competitive league

² Figures based on the 2015/16 season for Cavendish, HBVP and Highfield Park

Whilst the league is non-competitive (in line with FA guidelines), the games certainly offer a challenge every week! The challenging and nurturing environment has ensured that the youngsters passing through have developed into fine footballers with a passion and enjoyment for the game. For budding coaches, managers and referees, the Mini-Soccer centres offer the perfect foundation on which to build a love of football.

Match days are very simple with the RDYFL at Mini-Soccer, all communication with opponents is handled by the league; qualified referees are allocated to every match; teams simply turn up, pay their fee and, if you are first or last on, assemble or disassemble a goal! All decisions regarding the weather and postponements are handled by the league, however we aim to offer teams 20+ games per season; two invitational cup competitions at each age group and an end of season tournament.

U11s – U18s Football

We as a league are very proud of the high standard of football on offer across all of our 9 and 11-a-side forms. Recently, we acted upon the feedback from our managers and clubs and decided to offer both Saturday and Sunday football to accommodate more teams and give youngsters more opportunities to play.

Currently we have over 110 teams registered to play in our older age groups and provide the opportunity of organised football to well over a thousand³ players on Saturdays and Sundays. As well as offering league football to all of our teams, we run two cup competitions at each age group and offer an end of season tournament for all.

We are one of the few youth leagues in the country to allocate a qualified match official to every game and are very proud of our close liaison with Derbyshire Football Association and their referee development programme.

In order to improve the service we offer to our member clubs, we recently made the decision to devolve our management committee, and, now have two fixtures/results secretaries one with responsibility for U11-14 and the other U15-U18 age groups. The management committee has recently undergone training in using the FA game management software (Full-Time and Whole Game) in order to increase the proficiency and quality of our administration.

Futsal

The league has been looking to see what we could do to provide football, especially for the younger age groups, during the poor weather in winter. We supported the inauguration of the Chesterfield Futsal League in 2016 and work in partnership with them. Futsal is a very fast and skilful version of indoor football that has been played in South America for nearly a hundred years. The plans are that U7-U10s will be able to play futsal in the CFL at the state-of-the-art facilities at Queen's Park in Chesterfield from late 2016 through to spring 2017. Other age groups have competitions throughout the year.

What next?

We aim to grow and advance further as a league. We have undergone a challenging period of growth and development over the last twelve months and we are looking to become one of the finest providers of charter standard football in the country over the coming years.

As a league steeped in tradition and values, we believe we are one of the most respected, traditional and caring leagues operating in youth football in Britain and we would love for you to join us on our journey to success.

Should you require further information please contact Matt Hodkin on: 07845754617 or email chairman@rdyfl.co.uk

Follow us on twitter: [@rdyfl](https://twitter.com/rdyfl)

Visit our website: www.rdyfl.co.uk

And join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/rdyfl

You can also find out more about futsal at: www.chesterfieldfutsal.com

³ Figures based on 2015/16 season